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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-sixth session

Addendum

Programme budget implications of resolution 36/8 adopted by the Commission

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-sixth session, the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as the preparatory body for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, adopted resolution 36/8 entitled "Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace" (see E/1992/24-E/CN.6/1992/13, para. 3). Prior to the adoption of that resolution, the Commission heard an oral statement on programme budget implications. The present statement of programme budget implications has been prepared in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council and also in response to paragraph 1 of section D of resolution 36/8, in which the Commission requested the Council to reconsider the budget envisaged for the Conference on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General outlining resource requirements for regional and interregional preparatory activities, public information activities and for the Conference itself.

2. It is recalled that, in the statement on programme budget implications of the draft resolutions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fourth session (E/1990/25/Add.1), the Economic and Social Council, at its first regular session of 1990, was informed of preliminary estimates of resources required for preparatory activities for the biennium 1992-1993 and 1994-1995.

3. Subsequently, the General Assembly, in approving the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, decided to appropriate non-recurrent resources in the amount of $522,200 for preparatory activities for the Conference, under section 21 of the programme budget, comprising the following: $482,600 for temporary assistance, equivalent to 12 work-months at the P-5 level, 18 work-months at the P-4 level, 12 work-months at the P-3 level and 30 work-months at the General Service level; $24,600 for travel of staff in connection with activities related to the Conference; $6,200 for communications; $6,200 for miscellaneous services; and $2,600 for overtime.

4. The additional requirements for the biennium 1992-1993 proposed below would constitute additional expenditures derived from recommendations of the Commission at its thirty-sixth session that have not been provided for in the programme budget for 1992-1993 and would therefore be subject to the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213.

5. The requirements proposed for the biennium 1994-1995, calculated on a full-cost basis, will be addressed in the context of preparations for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 and bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 40/243 on pattern of conferences.

I. REQUESTS CONTAINED IN COMMISSION RESOLUTION 36/8

6. By paragraph 1 of section A of the resolution, the Commission decided (a) to accept the offer of the Government of China to act as host for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243; (b) that the Conference should be of a duration of 10 working days; and (c) that it should be held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995.

7. By paragraph 2 of section A, the Commission also decided to recommend that participation in the Conference should be open to, inter alia, representatives of organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under its auspices in the capacity of observers to participate in the Conference in that capacity; representatives of the national liberation movements recognized in its region by the Organization of African Unity to participate in the Conference in the capacity of observers; individuals who, in recognition of their personal contributions to the advancement of women, are invited by the Secretary- General; and members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

8. By paragraph 5 of section A, the Commission recommended that the Secretary-General appoint a woman as Secretary-General of the Conference, not later than 1992, who should have international stature in relation to the advancement of women and experience of the United Nations system, and who would assume primary responsibility for the preparation of the Conference.

9. By paragraph 6 of section B, the Commission recommended that regional conferences already scheduled include in their agendas preparations for the Conference and suggested that, in those regions that have not yet scheduled them, regional conferences to prepare for the Conference be organized under the auspices of the corresponding regional commission.

10. By paragraph 10 of section B, the Commission recommended that a public information strategy for the Conference be designed, using information mechanisms that reach the greatest number of people and based on the Conference themes, in particular those related to development.

11. By paragraph 12 of section B, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to plan and implement an information campaign and to issue a new bulletin entitled "Conference 95" twice a year to disseminate information on preparatory activities for the Conference at all levels in all official languages.

12. By paragraph 13 of section B, the Commission also requested the Secretary-General to provide Governments with a concise set of guidelines for public information campaigns at the national level and with periodic information packages that can be made available to national mass media and non-governmental organizations.

13. By paragraph 1 of section E, the Commission decided on the documentation for the Conference.

II. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES PROPOSED AND THEIR ESTIMATES AT FULL COST

14. The activities proposed in the resolution fall under programmes 24 (Statistics), 27 (Advancement of women), 38 (Public information) and 39 (Conference and library services) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 1/ and sections 13 (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs), 21 (Social development and humanitarian affairs), 31 (Public information) and 32 (Conference services) of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 2/

15. The proposed preparatory activities for the Conference, as well as the convening of the Conference itself, for the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 are described below. The estimated requirements for activities to be undertaken during 1994-1995 would be dealt with in the context of the proposed programme budget for that biennium. A summary of the total estimated requirements, calculated on a full-cost basis, is given in annex I.

A. Fourth World Conference on Women

16. Subject to endorsement by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session of the Commission's decision to accept the offer of the Government of China to act as host for the Conference, the cost estimates will be based on the assumption that the Conference will be held at Vienna. It is understood that any additional costs resulting from a change of the meeting venue would, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 40/243, be borne by the host Government.

17. The thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women will each be extended by two days to enable it to review the progress made and provide guidance in respect of the preparation for the Conference. The estimates for conference-servicing, at full cost, amount to $284,800 for the biennium 1994-1995 (see annex II). The programme budget implications of additional requirements for convening four additional meetings, with interpretation services, to be held simultaneously with the plenary meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-seventh session, appear in document E/1992/24/Add.1.

18. The cost estimates for the convening of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, are based on the following assumptions:

(a) The Conference would meet for 10 days, at Vienna, the established headquarters of the substantive organizational unit;

(b) There would be one plenary and two committees meeting daily, for a total of six meetings a day;

(c) The languages of the Conference would be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. There would be 500 pages of pre-session, 300 pages of in-session and 200 pages of post-session documentation.

19. The estimates for conference-servicing of the Conference, at full cost, would amount to $2,140,100 (see annex II).

20. In accordance with Commission resolution 36/8, section A, paragraph 2, a number of participants would be entitled to receive travel and subsistence allowance to attend the Conference, as follows:

(a) Travel and subsistence allowance for one representative from each of the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity, and of other organizations having received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly as observers and maintaining permanent offices at Headquarters (3 members) $15,000

(b) Travel and subsistence allowance for individuals, in recognition of their personal contributions to the advancement of women, invited by the Secretary-General (10 individuals) $50,000

(c) Travel and subsistence allowance for members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (23 members) $115,000

21. The costs for travel and subsistence allowance are estimated at $125,000 for the participation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and other staff not based at Vienna ($40,000), the Economic and Social Council secretariat ($60,000) and the regional commissions ($25,000). Participation of the Department of Public Information is discussed in paragraph 27.

22. Provision would also need to be made for an amount of $8,000 for an official reception for the participants in the Conference.

B. Regional meetings

23. Regional conferences on women are scheduled to be convened in 1994 by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). In response to Commission resolution 36/8, section B, paragraph 6, those conferences would each be extended by two days and designated as regional preparatory conferences to consider the regional contribution to the Conference. Conference-servicing requirements for those meetings are estimated at $290,100 on a full-cost basis (see annex II). No decision has been taken by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) or the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on convening such regional preparatory conferences.

24. Each of the three regional preparatory conferences would be attended by two staff members from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. Provision would be required for travel and subsistence in the amount of $29,000.

25. As part of the preparatory activities, it is anticipated that expert group meetings would be convened by each of the regional commissions (two by ECA, one by ECE, two by ECLAC, two by ESCAP and one by ESCWA) to consider issues that would provide an input into the deliberations of the regional conferences, where applicable, and into documentation for the Conference itself. Provision in the amount of $20,000 would be required in 1993 for one expert group meeting to be convened in 1993 by ECA and $140,000 for the other seven expert group meetings in 1994-1995.

26. To assist the regional commissions in the preparation of relevant documentation for the expert group meetings and the regional contributions to the Conference documentation, provision would be required for consultants in the amount of $30,000 for ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA in 1993 and $50,000 for ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA in 1994-1995.

C. Public information activities

27. Consistent with the established practice in respect of major United Nations conferences, public information activities for the Conference would comprise a number of activities, including issuance and dissemination of brochures, briefing papers, information kits, radio feature documentaries, television programmes and videos, the details of which are provided in annex III. The costs of the information activities have been estimated at $421,200 for 1994-1995. Resources required for the travel and subsistence of staff to the Conference itself have been estimated at $150,000.

D. Requirements for temporary strengthening of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs

28. By paragraph 1 of section E of its resolution 36/8, the Commission decided that the documentation for the Conference, which would be prepared by the secretariat, would include the following:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

(b) Draft final document (Platform for Action);

(c) Update of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development;

(d) Update of The World's Women: Trends and Statistics;

(e) Updated compendium on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of regional preparatory meetings for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace;

(g) Relevant sections of final documents emanating from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights and the International Conference on Population and Development.

29. As indicated in paragraph 3 above, non-recurrent resources for preparatory activities for the Conference have been appropriated for the biennium 1992-1993 in the amount of $522,200. Temporary assistance approved

for 1992-1993 would continue to be required for 1994-1995, comprising one P-5 post, one P-4 post, one P-3 post and two General Service (Other level) posts, at an estimated $835,200 (at 1993 costs). One additional General Service staff would be required for the biennium 1994-1995 at Vienna to assist in the overall coordination and preparation for submission of documentation, including backstopping activities for the Conference. The estimated requirements (at 1993 costs) would amount to $102,600.

30. For the purpose of coordinating substantive activities, to be undertaken by various entities of the United Nations system in preparation of the Conference, external relations, consultations with Governments, particularly with reference to the preparation of national reports as requested by the Commission in paragraph 1 of section B of its resolution 36/8, and with international organizations and non-governmental organizations, and participation at international meetings convened in preparation of the Conference, additional resources are required for travel in 1994-1995 in the amount of $30,000.

31. As part of the preparatory activities, a new bulletin entitled "Conference 95" will be issued twice a year, beginning in 1993. The additional requirements for the printing of that bulletin in 1993 are estimated in the amount of $30,000. It is anticipated that those additional costs can be absorbed within existing resources and that no additional appropriations would be required under section 21 of the programme budget for 1992-1993. The requirements for the printing of "Conference 95" during 1994-1995 are estimated at $60,000 at full cost.

32. Other requirements for 1994-1995 include resources for consultant services ($20,000) to assist in updating the analytical aspects of The World's Women: Trends and Statistics, overtime ($8,000) and communications ($10,000).

33. When a decision is taken on the appointment of a Secretary-General of the Conference, a statement on the financial implications of such an appointment, as well as other additional requirements that may be necessary in connection therewith, will be submitted.

E. Other requirements

34. To assist in the preparation of the update of The World's Women: Trends and Statistics, which falls under the overall responsibility of the Department of Economic and Social Development and which will be part of the documentation for the Conference, it is estimated that resources for consultancy services, for the further development of methods of compilation and data collection as recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/98, would be required in 1994-1995 in the amount of $20,000.

III. SUMMARY

A. Additional requirements for the biennium 1992-1993

35. The total additional requirements for 1993 amount to $50,000 (see paras. 25 and 26 above and annex I). These requirements represent additional expenditures to be treated in the context of the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund.

36. Under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that can exceed resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of approved activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred to a later biennium.

37. In the event that resources are not available from the contingency fund for additional requirements of $20,000 for the convening by ECA of an expert group meeting in 1993 (para. 25) and $30,000 for consultancy services (para. 26), the related activities would have to be postponed and the estimated costs would have to be taken into account for the biennium 1994-1995.

B. Requirements, at full cost, for the biennium 1994-1995

38. For the biennium 1994-1995, non-conference-servicing requirements are estimated, on a full-cost basis, to amount to $2,189,000 (see annex I). The actual requirements will be dealt with in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

39. Conference-servicing requirements are estimated on a full-cost basis in the amount of $2,715,000 in 1994-1995. Those requirements will be reflected in the proposed programmme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1), vols. I and II.

2/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), vols. I and II.

Annex I

COST ESTIMATES FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, TO BE HELD IN 1995, AND PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES FOR THE BIENNIUMS 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 (AT FULL COST)

(In United States dollars)

	1992-1993			
	Approved 1992-1993	Additional	1994-1995	TOTAL
A. Temporary assistance requirements (paras. 3, 29)	482 600	-	937 800	1 420 400
B. Consultancy (paras. 26, 32, 34)	-	30 000	90 000	120 000
C. Expert group meetings (para. 25)	-	20 000	140 000	160 000
D. Travel costs				
1. Participation in Conference of:				
(a) Specified individuals (para. 20)	-	-	180 000	180 000
(b) ECOSOC secretariat (para. 21)	-	-	60 000	60 000
(c) Staff (para. 21)	-	-	40 000	40 000
(d) Regional commissions (para. 21)	-	-	25 000	25 000
2. Participation of staff at meetings related to the Conference (paras. 3 and 30)	24 600	-	30 000	54 600
3. Participation of staff at regional preparatory conferences (para. 24)	-	-	29 000	29 000
Subtotal (D)	24 600	-	364 000	388 600

	1992-1993			
	Approved 1992-1993	Additional	1994-1995	TOTAL
E. Overtime (paras. 3 and 32)	2 600	-	8 000	10 600
F. Communications (paras. 3 and 32)	6 200	-	10 000	16 200
G. Hospitality (para. 22)	-	-	8 000	8 000
H. External printing (para. 31)	-	-	60 000	60 000
I. Miscellaneous (para. 3)	6 200	-	-	6 200
Subtotal (A-I)	522 200	50 000	1 617 800	2 190 000
J. Public information activities, including travel (para. 27)	-	-	571 200	571 200
Total (A-J)	522 200	50 000	2 189 000	2 761 200
K. Conference servicing				
1. Regional meetings	-	-	290 100	290 100
2. Commission on the Status of Women (extra 2 days per session)	-	-	284 800	284 800
3. World Conference	-	-	2 140 100	2 140 100
Total (K)	-	-	2 715 000	2 715 000
Grand total (A-K)	522 200	50 000	4 904 000	5 476 200

Annex II

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE-SERVICING REQUIREMENTS

	Location	Date	Duration (working days)	Number of pages			Language	Daily meetings	Conference-servicing costs (US$)
				Pre-session	In-session	Post-session			
Commission on the Status of Women, 38th and 39th sessions	Vienna	Spring 1994/1995	2	50	30	a/	6	2	284 800
Regional preparatory conference									
ECLAC	Santiago	1994	2	50	50	20	3 EFS	2	89 800
ECA	Addis Ababa	1994	2	50	50	20	3 AEF	2	89 900
ESCAP	Bangkok	1994	2	50	50	20	4 CEFR	2	110 400
1995 Conference	Vienna b/	1995	10	500	300	200	6	6	2 140 100
Total									2 715 000

a/ To be incorporated in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women.

b/ Cost estimates based on Vienna.

Annex III

PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

1. By paragraph 10 of section B of its resolution 36/8, the Commission on the Status of Women requested that a public information strategy for the Conference be designed, using information mechanisms that reach the greatest number of people and based on the Conference themes, in particular those related to development. By paragraph 13 of section B of its resolution 36/8, the Commission also requested the Secretary-General to provide Governments with a concise set of guidelines for public information campaigns at the national level and with periodic information packages that can be made available to national mass media and non-governmental organizations.

2. The proposals described below comprise a basic information programme which is required for a major United Nations conference. The information programme will be targeted mainly to the following audiences: the media, government officials and parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations, in particular those involved in women's issues, educational institutions, and school students. It will aim to reach men as well as women; grass-roots as well as Governments. Emphasis will be placed on reaching mass audiences through the use of television, radio and major print media.

3. Many of the proposed activities can be adapted for use at the national and/or regional levels. Governments would be encouraged to reproduce and distribute, as part of their public information campaigns at the national level, any or all of the material provided by the United Nations. It is also proposed that funds be provided to United Nations Information Centres to enable them to make available in local languages United Nations information material on the Conference and to develop projects to publicize the Conference.

4. The proposed activities, estimated at $421,200, are listed below:

(a) A pre-Conference illustrated brochure on the aims and objectives of the Conference, in the six official languages. The cost of producing 100,000 copies of the brochure is estimated at $60,000;

(b) A special edition of the publication "Notes for Speakers", to be produced in English, French and Spanish. The cost of producing the special edition is estimated at $75,000;

(c) Funds are required to assist United Nations Information Centres and information services to produce, in local languages, selected publications produced as part of the information programme for the Conference, including the pre-Conference brochure, feature articles, fact-sheets, background notes, and the student leaflet. The cost is estimated at $30,000;

(d) Regional projects to publicize and explain the Conference to journalists, non-governmental organizations or university/school audiences to be undertaken by selected United Nations Information Centres. Such projects could include journalist round tables, press conferences and seminars; symposia or conferences for non-governmental organizations; co-productions with regional media of newspaper supplements, radio and TV spots, call-in programmes, docu-dramas and cartoons; production of material for schools such as information kits and the holding of competitions such as essay contests; and exhibits. Nine such proposals would be chosen in different regions and the United Nations Information Centres would seek local partnership to co-fund the projects. Seed money for nine projects is estimated at $45,000;

(e) A series of special radio feature documentaries, within the "Women" radio series, to be produced on the issues before the Conference, in the six official languages and selected local languages. The production of the series and the language versions will be carried out within the ongoing activities of the Department of Public Information. The cost for the travel and subsistence of a radio producer to selected countries to conduct interviews and collect other field material for the radio programmes is estimated at $30,000;

(f) Four segments of the television programme UN in Action to be produced for use on the Cable News Network (CNN) weekly programme World Report, which is seen in 90 countries. These items will be distributed in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish to additional broadcasters worldwide. The production of these programmes would fall under the ongoing activities carried out by the Department of Public Information. The travel costs of a producer to visit selected countries to gather material and the hiring of local television crews to film in those countries is estimated at $20,000;

(g) Adaptations into six non-offical languages of three UNTV video programmes provided to the United Nations Information Centres. The cost of these language adaptations is estimated at $9,000;

(h) Fellowships to be provided for 20 journalists from developing countries to attend a two-day pre-Conference journalists encounter and the Conference itself. They would be briefed on the main issues of the agenda. The encounter would also be open to all journalists accredited to the Conference. The cost for the travel and per diem of the journalists selected from developing countries would be $100,000;

(i) Promotion and launching of the major publications for the Conference, to generate interest and familiarity with the issues among the media and the non-governmental organizations, to be held at Headquarters and selected field offices. The cost of promotional activities is estimated at $10,000;

(j) To provide radio coverage and written press coverage of the three regional preparatory meetings, local journalists would be hired. The cost for this, including costs for transmitting broadcast quality radio feeds, would amount to $1,200 for radio and $1,000 for press coverage, for a total of $2,200;

(k) To distribute the materials described in paragraphs 4 (a), (b), (c), (e) and (f) and 5 (f) an amount of $40,000 would be required, which would include $10,000 for United Nations Information Centres to disseminate material to local media.

5. Activities related to the Conference, which would be absorbed as part of the ongoing programme of work of the Department of Public Information, include the following:

(a) A multi-colour poster for the Conference to be produced in the six official languages, plus blanks for over-printing in local languages (75,000 copies);

(b) A press information kit on the global situation of women, the major obstacles to their advancement, the United Nations work for women and the preparatory activities for the Conference to be produced in English, French and Spanish. It will be aimed mainly at a select list of media organizations worldwide and selected non-governmental organizations;

(c) A series of feature articles, fact-sheets and background notes to be issued periodically in English, French and Spanish, aimed primarily at the mass media, to cover in greater detail the issues before the Conference;

(d) Two or more half-hour programmes in the television series World Chronicle to include interviews with leading personalities concerned with the United Nations work for women and the preparations for the Conference;

(e) An inter-agency working group already established in New York to encourage joint inter-agency as well as individual information activities, within the framework of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC), will meet regularly in order to strengthen system-wide information activities on the Conference;

(f) Production of student leaflet aimed at primary school students on the issues before the Conference;

(g) Production of an educational video and teaching guide aimed at secondary school students.

6. Conference coverage carried out by the Department of Public Information for major United Nations conferences includes the issuance of daily press releases, media accreditation and liaison, press briefings, radio, photo and television coverage and related activities. Estimated requirements for the Conference have been based on the Conference meeting for 10 working days,

comprising a plenary and two committees meeting simultaneously for a total of six meetings daily and press coverage of the Conference in English and French only. Based on the workload standards of the Department for major conferences, the resource requirements for the Conference, meeting at Vienna, are estimated at $150,000 for travel and subsistence of 30 staff members.